



# The Environmental Sustainicator

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*"a communicator of sustainable efforts"*

EPA Region 4, RCRA Programs and Materials Management Section ~ A Newsletter on Regional Recycling and Material Management

## Assessing Community Liability

You are a school district and your mission is to prepare the children for tomorrow's challenges. You do not have an environmental management system (EMS), and you do not have an inventory



*A school lab displaying commonly used chemicals.*

of the chemicals, which make up your hazardous materials inventory. What happens when a student decides to play with those pretty beads of mercury on the lab counter, and they fall to the floor potentially contaminating a large area? What is your response? What could you have done to prevent this spill from occurring? Ask yourself, do you have any undocumented chemicals or materials in your schools or business that may represent a health risk or

liability hazard. In almost all cases, the cost of prevention is orders of magnitude cheaper than the emergency response and liability.

The most recent mercury response incident occurred at Pooler Elementary School, Chatham County. This is just the latest in a series of EPA lead Emergency Response actions where mercury was involved and could have been prevented through education. (Region 7 EPA has put together excellent resources for schools.

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Please visit [http://www.epa.gov/region07/mercury/educator\\_toolkit.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region07/mercury/educator_toolkit.htm), for downloads and videos to promote environmental and chemical awareness.) In this case, the mercury did not originate from the school. Rather, a student brought a vial of mercury from home and from there, the rest becomes history. This single act cost the tax payers over \$150,000. Tasks included the resurfacing of the gym floor, and the clean up of one classroom at the school. Additionally, over 100 homes underwent mercury monitoring, and several washing machines were replaced by this response action.

Since 2001, EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch have addressed over 74 spills and releases of mercury, for a



*Hazardous mercury from a broken thermometer.*

total cost of approximately \$4.4 million. Most of these emergency response events have taken place at community schools, with costs ranging for \$10,000 to over \$100,000, depending on the circumstances. EPA may have paid for some of the clean ups. However cost recovery can be painful in many cases a school district must be aware that EPA can sue to recover the funds. Simple inventory and removal of unneeded hazardous chemicals is much less expensive than paying for a response action.

The School Chemical Clean out Campaign (SC3) has been involved on a community level for several years and has facilitated clean out and elimination of chemical hazards at numerous schools. For example, Alabama SC3 removed in FY 2007, over 2,000 pounds of potentially hazardous chemicals from 13 schools, for a student population of 7,757. In FY 2008, the SC3 program removed over 6,160 pounds of potentially hazardous chemicals from 22 schools, representing a student population of 19,387.

Most schools need support to conduct a chemical clean out and implement a prevention program. Building partnerships with others in the community, especially state, tribal, and local government agencies, chemical suppliers and distributors, and waste handlers, is a necessary step in developing a successful chemical management program.

To start a program:

- Assemble a team of teachers, facilities staff, school nurses, administrators, and community partners with technical expertise to assess chemical safety issues and set policy.
- Organize and build support for a chemical management program.
- Foster frequent and open communication between team members.

To find out more information on the SC3 program, go to <http://www.epa.gov/SC3/> on the internet. Please contact David Langston, 404-562-8478, [langston.david@epa.gov](mailto:langston.david@epa.gov) for more information.

### **School Chemical Clean out (SC3) Progress**

On June 4, 2008, Union City Police Department Bomb Squad removed an old container of picric acid that had been sitting for decades and was discovered when a chemistry teacher was cleaning out the lab. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation environmental specialist offered the School Chemical Clean out program to the teacher. This program aids in the cleaning of old chemicals from school labs. This will allow environmental specialists to work in conjunction with teachers and local authorities.

On June 17, a EPA Project Manager met with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and a chemistry teacher from Union City High School (over 350 students) to remove old hazardous chemicals. Five pounds of mercury was removed from the school. Mercury thermometers were replaced with liquid filled thermometers. The science teacher was educated about proper chemical management, lab safety, greener teaching options, and chemical waste disposal.

On June 19, 2008, EPA Region 4 participated with the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation and the environmental service company, Clean Harbors to clean out hazardous chemicals at a local high school in Crossville, Tennessee. This Region 4 state has demonstrated the ideal program and has been a significant role model for other states in the process of cleaning and protecting students, teachers, and other local citizens within the community. The focus of the clean out was to locate any picric acid and properly dispose of it. Like trinitrotoluene (TNT), picric acid contains nitrated compounds, which can easily cause an explosion. This highly explosive chemical is the most acidic phenol having a yellow crystalline appearance. Along with the many other chemicals that were disposed of, Mercury was another dangerous element on our high priority list found at the school.

On June 24, 2008, Region 4 EPA participated with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) in Ashville, Alabama. The EPA and ADEM goal is to successfully dispose of all unwanted chemicals found at Ashville High school. Mr. Dennis Reese, Mr. Brounstein and Mr. David Champagne all participated in the clean out of over 15 pounds of mercury along with many other acids, caustics, flammables, oxidizers, toxics, and several pounds of nitric acid. Please contact Delores Rodgers-Smith, 404-562-8479, [rodgers-smith.delores@epa.gov](mailto:rodgers-smith.delores@epa.gov) for more information.

### Help Keep Georgia Beautiful

Here's Your Chance to Help Keep Georgia Beautiful.

Order your Recycle 4 Georgia license plate today. It's easy and it doesn't matter if your birthday has already passed. One thousand orders are needed for the Department of Revenue to manufacture the new recycling tag.



*Keep Georgia Beautiful new logo.*

The cost for the new tag is \$25 with a \$10 donation going to the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation – a double win! Your money will help a great environmental cause and your license plate will promote one of the easiest forms of everyday environmentalism: recycling!

It's easy:

Get an order form from [KeepGeorgiaBeautiful.org](http://KeepGeorgiaBeautiful.org).

Fill out the form and take it to your county tag office. You can also pick up the form at your county tag office.

Tell your local county tag office you want the Recycle 4 Georgia tag that is listed under the "Beautification Projects in Georgia" or the "RG" tag category.

Please note the \$25 application cost is in addition to the standard \$20 registration fee. You will be refunded your application fee if 1,000 orders are not placed by December 31, 2008.

Help us reach 1,000 orders so everyone can be reminded to Recycle 4 Georgia!

### Kentucky Recycling Interest Group

The Kentucky Division of Waste Management, in partnership with the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, has established a State Recycling Organization known as the Kentucky Recycling Interest



Group, or KRIG. KRIG is a professional group charged with providing a forum to discuss and resolve recycling issues for public, private, and non-profit individuals and organizations engaged in the business of recycling. KRIG will identify and recommend practices to develop sustainable and economically viable recycling and waste reduction policy. The primary goal of this initiative is "net zero" waste output for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. KRIG's next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2008. With the formation of KRIG, all eight Region 4 states now have a functional State Recycling Organization. Please contact Karen Bandhauer, 404-562-9122, [bandhauer.karen@epa.gov](mailto:bandhauer.karen@epa.gov) for more information.

### **Leaner-Greener Cities Proposal**

The Region 4 RCRA Division submitted a proposal for Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Innovations Funding. The proposal, entitled "Municipal Self-Evaluation Process for Leaner-Greener Cities," was selected as one of the top projects to be funded. The project will develop a comprehensive self-evaluation methodology for municipalities to identify green building barriers by reviewing their codes and ordinances. A menu of specific code language changes or additions will be developed, including stand-alone green codes. The menu will consist of a suite of existing green codes and ordinances, and it

will create a one-stop shop for communities to address their codes and ordinance barriers. The self-evaluation methodology will be piloted at a minimum of one local municipality. The Region 4 Water Division and Office of Pollution Prevention and Innovation are involved in managing the project. Please contact Karen Bandhauer, 404-562-9122, [bandhauer.karen@epa.gov](mailto:bandhauer.karen@epa.gov) for more information.

### **Home Depot Announces Compact Fluorescent Lamp Recycling**

Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, today expanded its long-term commitment to the environment and sustainability by launching a national in-store, consumer compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb recycling program at all 1,973 The Home Depot locations. This free service is the first such offering made so widely available by a retailer in the United States and offers customers additional options for making environmentally conscious decisions from purchase to disposal. The Home Depot Canada launched a CFL recycling program in November, 2007.

At each store, customers can simply bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. The bulbs will then be managed responsibly by an environmental management company who will coordinate CFL packaging, transportation and

recycling to maximize safety and ensure environmental compliance.

In addition to the CFL recycling program, The Home Depot has also launched an in store energy conservation program to switch Light Fixture Showrooms in U.S. stores from incandescent bulbs to CFLs by Fall 2008 and save \$16 million annually in energy costs.

The CFL recycling program is an extension of The Home Depot's Eco Options program. Eco Options, launched in April 2007, is a classification that allows customers to easily identify products that have less of an impact on the environment.

"The CFL recycling program is another example of how Home Depot is empowering customers to help make a difference in their own homes, and have less of an impact on the environment," said Ron Jarvis, senior



*CFL lightbulb*

vice president, Environmental Innovation. "With more than 75 percent of households located within 10 miles of a Home Depot store, this program is the first national solution to providing Americans with a convenient way to recycle CFLs."

Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an easy change consumers can make to reduce energy use at home. According to the EPA's ENERGY STAR® program, if every American switched out one incandescent bulb to a CFL, it would prevent more than 600 million in annual energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from 800,000 cars. As the largest retailer of light bulbs in the country, The Home Depot sold over 75 million CFL's in 2007, which saved Americans approximately \$4.8 billion in energy costs and 51.8 billion pounds in CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases over the life of the bulbs.

Other environmental initiatives Home Depot has implemented since the launch of Eco Options in April 2007 include:

Store recycling program in the U.S. of shrink wrap and mixed plastics, which will result in 50 million pounds of waste diverted from landfills each year.

The internal recycling initiative at corporate headquarters is projected to increase the amount of recycled materials from 30 percent to at least 65 percent.

Renewed commitment to use transportation partners registered in SmartWay program and ensuring Home Depot distribution facilities and stores further promote emission reduction. Please contact David Langston, 404-562-8478, langston.david@epa.gov for more information.

### **Disaster Resilient Home Workshop**

The Southeastern Region Research Initiative (SERRI) is sponsoring a Disaster Resilient Home Workshop at the College of Charleston, September 9 and 10, 2008. The goal of the program is to enable community recovery following a natural disaster by speeding the return of the residents to their homes. To accomplish this goal, the program treats disaster recovery as a four-phase process; assessment, response, rebuilding, and prevention. More information on SERRI is available at <http://www.serri.org/index.html>. Online registration for the workshop is not currently

available, but interested parties can request additional information through the channels at the website above. Please contact Steve Smith, 404-562-8501, smith.steve@epa.gov for more information.

### **Regional Environmental Priority Project (REPP) Grant**

EPA has officially awarded the Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC) a two-year grant under its REPP solicitation. The grant, entitled "Impact in the Southeast: A Study of the Recycling Economy" began June 1, 2008. This study is focused on the recycling industry in the southeast, including the eight Region IV states. Currently, many industries that use recycled material as feedstock are having difficulty obtaining enough material to meet their needs, often having to import materials from other states or even from overseas. SERDC will produce a report of their findings, along with a glossy map noting those key manufacturing facilities using recycled material as feedstock. Industry profiles, along with their economic impacts will be included, and distributed to officials with decision-making authority. Presentations will be given to officials, to possibly include conferences of mayors, county commissioners, city and county managers, associations and legislative bodies. Its intent is to definitively illustrate the positive economic impacts of recycling, and therefore encourage municipal officials



*An example of community recovery following a natural disaster.*

to support and fund recycling efforts in their communities. Please contact Rhonda Rollins, 404-562-8664, [rollins.rhonda@epa.gov](mailto:rollins.rhonda@epa.gov) for more information.

### **Griffin Regional Hub Workshop**

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), in conjunction with the City of Griffin, hosted a Regional Single Stream Recycling Hub Workshop on July 15, 2008 in Griffin, Georgia. Representatives from local governments, industry, and non-profits attended. The workshop included presentations from DCA, the City of Griffin, and the Curbside Value Partnership (CVP). It highlighted Georgia's new regional transfer hub concept, and its outlook for implementation. Please contact Rhonda Rollins, 404-562-8664, [rollins.rhonda@epa.gov](mailto:rollins.rhonda@epa.gov) for more information.

### **RecycleMania 2009**

RecycleMania 2009 is rapidly approaching. The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) is proposing changes in the competition that will impact outcomes for the 2009 competition. The largest change is to move the start of the competition up one week. The competition will now begin January 18, 2009 and end March 28, 2009.

RecycleMania will continue to run its traditional 10 cycle. Another change

that will have a significant impact on the competition is the inclusion of a two-week trial period at the beginning of the contest. During these first two weeks, reporting and ranking of a school recycling data will not count toward the cumulative results. For more information regarding these and other changes, please visit the RecycleMania website at <http://www.recyclemaniacs.org/changes2009.htm>. Please contact Thornell Cheeks, 404-562-8479, [cheeks.thornell@epa.gov](mailto:cheeks.thornell@epa.gov) for more information.

### **P2/Compliance Brochure**

EPA would like to announce the release of the Regions' P2/Compliance Brochure. The tri-fold handout focuses on success stories of companies who implement energy efficiency, water efficiency and recycling projects that result in monetary savings or even generate revenue. There are also components of regulatory assistance, but the intent is "going beyond compliance. There is specific data on other facilities saving big money, to encourage companies to check out the programs. This one-pager gives enough information to get them started, and to seek out the other information and contacts. While there is a lot of great information on these programs individually, they would require pages and pages of handouts, which is not an effective tool to encourage P2 while doing RCRA inspections. The



## Make your pockets **GREENER** with Voluntary Programs



*Front graphic of the new P2 brochure.*

brochure is specific to the types of facilities we inspect, and the types of programs that would be most useful to them (e.g. NPEP, Energy Star, etc). It also includes R4 specific contact info. RCRA enforcement (Region 4) has agreed that its inspectors would distribute the information during or after their usual RCRA inspections (about 150-200 per year). The brochure could also be used for other media inspections, and will be distributed as part of our education outreach to other relevant industries and individuals. For further information, please contact Rhonda Rollins at 404-562-8664, [rollins.rhonda@epa.gov](mailto:rollins.rhonda@epa.gov) or Angela Bivens at 404-562-8623, [bivens.angela@epa.gov](mailto:bivens.angela@epa.gov).

## SERDC's Recycling Summit 2008

SERDC's Recycling Summit 2008 is shaping up to be the place to be November 12th-14th. The Summit is attracting southeastern state leaders that are interested in recycling as an economic generator. High level decision makers will join grass roots recyclers, industry professionals and others interested in learning more about recycling opportunities and the many benefits that result from sustainable programs. The Economic Impacts of Recycling in the Southeast is a story that needs to be heard and will be at this Recycling Summit. The Summit Session portion of the program will feature presentations from at least five Southeastern states and an interactive legislative round table discussion.

Interest is also high in the corporate community and in the recycling industry itself. The Alabama Recycling Coalition, the Mississippi Recycling Coalition and recyclers in Louisiana will join with SERDC and will hold their annual membership meetings in conjunction with the Summit. Committees are working to ensure a successful experience for all participants. The program is being developed with consideration of the multi-level interest and needs of the anticipated audience. For further information, please contact Rhonda Rollins at 404-562-8664, [rollins.rhonda@epa.gov](mailto:rollins.rhonda@epa.gov).

## **The RCRA Senior Management Site Tour**

On June 27, RCRA Senior Management was invited to tour SP Recycling paper plant in Dublin, Georgia. SP Recycling Corp Headquarters (SPRC) is located in Atlanta, Georgia and is an owned subsidiary of SP Newsprint Co., that was organized in 1977 to collect, process and ship high quality raw materials - recovered fiber and wood chips - to SP Newsprint Co. mills in Dublin, Georgia and Newberg, Oregon as well as to other consuming mills.

SPRC collects and purchases more than one million tons of old newspapers, 225,000 tons of sawmill residual chips and 130,000 tons of other paper grades each year.

In the process of collecting recovered paper, SPRC also handles a range of recyclable materials. Metals, plastics, glass, and non-newsprint papers, are all removed from the newsprint chain by both mechanical and hand-sorting operations. These materials are then collected and resold to other recycling firms specializing in the handling of those specific items. Other materials collected as a part of the waste stream, such as old tires and wood debris are burned to produce on-site steam and electrical power. This helps reduce energy costs while decreasing the volume of waste going to the landfills.

EPA is looking into partnering with SPRC to help create Marketing opportunities for paper and other materials collected at the facility in the Southeast region. Please contact Delores Rodgers-Smith, 404-562-8479, [rodgers-smith.delores@epa.gov](mailto:rodgers-smith.delores@epa.gov) for more information.



## Calendar of Events

Aug 15, 2008- Pennsylvania Automotive Recycling Trade Society - Parts 2008 Convention & Exposition, Pennsylvania, PA, <http://www.parts.org/convention.html>

Aug 24, 2008- Georgia Recycling Coalition - GA Recycling Coalition Annual Conference, St. Simons GA, <http://www.georgiarecycles.org>

Aug 27-29-Georgia Chamber's 3rd Annual Georgia Environmental Conference, <http://www.georgiaenet.com/steeringcommittee.htm>

Sept 6, 2008 - Community Clean-up Event (Household Hazardous Waste, Document Shredding) Annandale, VA, [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/md\\_directions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/md_directions.htm)

Sept 7, 2008- Penton Media Inc.  
- 2008 Global Waste Management

Symposium, USA, Colorado, <http://www.wastesymposium.com>

Sept 8, 2008- 2008 Recycling Business Forum, <http://www.sccommerce.com/resources/conferencesevents/recyclingbusinessforum.aspx>

September 9 and 10, 2008-The Southeastern Region Research Initiative (SERRI)'s Disaster Resilient Home Workshop at the College of Charleston, <http://www.serri.org/index.html>

Sept 13, 2008 - Document Shredding and Fluorescent Light Recycling Event, Chantilly, VA, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/recycling/event-0913.pdf>

Sept 13, 2008- Electronic recycling, paper shredding, CFL light-bulb pick-up event, Schaumburg, IL <http://www.ci.schaumburg.il.us/vos.nsf/schaumburg/MMER-7GFK2D>



A Newsletter on Regional Recycling and Material Management

Sept 17, 2008 E-Scrap News - The E-Scrap

2008 Conference Electronics, Phoenix, AZ

<http://www.e-scrapnews.com/>

Sep 21, 2008- National Recycling Coalition

(DC) - NRC's 27th Annual Congress &

Expo, Pittsburg, PA [http://events.jspargo.](http://events.jspargo.com/nrc08/public/enter.aspx)

[com/nrc08/public/enter.aspx](http://events.jspargo.com/nrc08/public/enter.aspx)

Oct 4, 2008 - Household Hazardous Waste  
Collection Event, McLean, VA, [http://www.](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/recycling/event-1004.pdf)

[fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/  
recycling/event-1004.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/recycling/event-1004.pdf)

Oct 4, 2008 - Fall for Fairfax: Kidsfest,  
children's festival with an environmental  
theme, Fairfax, VA. [http://www.](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/offsite/?pg=http://www.fallforfairfax.com)

[fairfaxcounty.gov/offsite/?pg=http://www.  
fallforfairfax.com](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/offsite/?pg=http://www.fallforfairfax.com)

Oct 6, 2008- Iowa Recycling and Solid  
Waste Management Conference and Trade  
Show, Cedar Rapids, IA, [http://www.](http://www.iowarecycles.org/index.asp?ID=4599)  
[iowarecycles.org/index.asp?ID=4599](http://www.iowarecycles.org/index.asp?ID=4599)

Oct 07, 2008- New Mexico Recycling

Coalition - Composting Certification

Course, Albuquerque, NM, [www.](http://www.recyclenewmexico.com)

[recyclenewmexico.com](http://www.recyclenewmexico.com)

Oct 11, 2008 - Document Shredding Event,

Braddock Government Center, Burke, VA

22015. [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/  
publications/recycling/event-1011.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/recycling/event-1011.pdf)

Oct 13, 2008- North American Hazardous  
Materials Management Association - 23rd  
Annual NAHMMA Conference, Burlington,  
VT, [http://nahmma.org/displayconvspecific.  
cfm?convnbr=5242](http://nahmma.org/displayconvspecific.cfm?convnbr=5242)

Oct 15, 2008- National Demolition

Association - NDA 14th Annual

Demolition Academy, Environmental

Industry Events, Atlanta, GA , [http://www.](http://www.demolitionassociation.com/demolition_academy.php)

[demolitionassociation.com/demolition\\_  
academy.php](http://www.demolitionassociation.com/demolition_academy.php)

Oct 21, 2008- Solid Waste Association of  
North America (SWANA) – Wastecon,  
Tampa, FL, <http://wastecon.swana.org>

Oct 29-30, 2008- Wastewise and NPEP  
Conference, [http://www.epa.gov/wastewise/  
conf.htm](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise/conf.htm)

Oct 21, 2008- Automotive Recyclers  
Association - ARA's 65th Annual  
Convention & Exposition, KANSAS CITY,  
MO, [http://arav1.timberlakepublishing.com/  
content.asp?contentid=500](http://arav1.timberlakepublishing.com/content.asp?contentid=500)

Nov 12-14, 2008- SERDC Recycling  
Summit 2008 - [http://www.serdc.org/  
conference](http://www.serdc.org/conference)

Oct 22, 2008- Sixth Annual S.C. Resource  
Conservation Challenge (RCC) Workshop,  
[www.scdhec.gov/rcc](http://www.scdhec.gov/rcc)

Oct 27, 2008- Pinellas County Utilities  
Solid Waste Operations will have a booth  
promoting America Recycles Day and  
the pledge cards, Pinellas County, FL,  
[http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/  
departments/solid-waste.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/departments/solid-waste.htm)

Oct 27, 2008- Townsend's America Recycles  
Day, Townsend, MA, [www.nrc-recycle.org/  
ma.aspx](http://www.nrc-recycle.org/ma.aspx)

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